

Message Text

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10

ACTION XMB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-11 ADP-00 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00

INR-09 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 PM-09 MC-02 AID-20

RSR-01 /072 W

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R 272203 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9202

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CARACAS 2608

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD US VE

SUBJECT: PATROL BOATS

REF: STATE 48697

1. VENEZUELAN NATIONAL GUARD IS PLANNING TO PURCHASE " TYPE B" UNARMED PATROL BOATS FOR USE IN LAKE MARACAIBO. BOATS WOULD BE USED TO PROVIDE GREATER SECURITY FOR OIL RIGS IN LAKE MARACAIBO AND TO REDUCE CONTRABAND ENTERING VENEZUELA FROM NETHERLANDS ANTILLES AND ELSEWHERE. VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT WOULD APPARENTLY PREFER THAT SOME OF THE BOATS BE CONSTRUCTED IN VENEZUELA. NATIONAL GUARD IS ALSO CONTEMPLATING PURCHASE OF SMALLER VESSELS FOR RIVER PATROL TO COMBAT CONTRABAND TRAFFIC, BUT PURCHASE IS EXPECTED TO BE DELAYED.

2. WHETHER BOATS ARE DESIGNED FOR RIVER PATROL OR FOR LAKE MARACAIBO, THEY WOULD BE INTENDED TO COMPLEMENT THE NATIONAL GUARD'S TRADITIONAL POLICING FUNCTIONS. VENEZUELAN NATIONAL GUARD DOES NOT RESEMBLE U. S. FORCE OF SAME NAME. IT IS A PARAMILITARY UNIT WHICH SPECIALIZES IN SUCH NORMALLY CIVILIAN POLICE FUNCTIONS AS COAST GUARD, ANTI-SMUGGLING OPERATIONS, BORDER CONTROL, HIGHWAY PATROL, , ANTI-NARCOTICS, ETC. NATIONAL GUARD, THOUGH CONSIDERED PART OF ARMED FORCES, OPERATES UNDER SEPARATE COMMAND. BOATS WILL BE USED FOR NON-MILITARY PATROL DUTIES.

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MCCLINTOCK

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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30 JUN 2005

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